

# Board of Global Ministries

## The United Methodist Church

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Cable: missions new york

JUNE 16, 1976

THE HONORABLE MARK HATFIELD  
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DEAR SENATOR HATFIELD:

I WRITE TO YOU FROM THE BACKGROUND OF SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MISSIONARY IN CHINA, HONGKONG AND BRAZIL AND THIRTEEN YEARS AS A STAFF OFFICER OF WHAT IS NOW THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

IN DECEMBER OF 1975, WHEN MR. COLBY AND MR. BUCHEN MADE THEIR MUCH PUBLICIZED STATEMENT ABOUT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S INTENTIONAL USE OF MISSIONARIES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL, MY STAFF COLLEAGUES AND I REPUDIATED SUCH A PRACTICE AS A PROSTITUTION OF THE VERY NATURE OF THE MISSIONARY VOCATION. WE SEE IT ALSO AS A VIOLATION OF THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL WITH THE PEOPLE AMONG WHOM THEY SERVE.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE CORPS OF MISSIONARY PERSONNEL WHICH THIS BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES MAINTAINS IN SERVICE AROUND THE WORLD ALSO REJECTED IN THE MOST VIGOROUS TERMS THE UTILIZATION OF MISSIONARIES BY THE CIA AT THE INITIATIVE OF EITHER. THIS STAND HAS HAD SOLID GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, AND WAS RECENTLY AFFIRMED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, ITS HIGHEST LEGISLATIVE BODY, IN SESSION IN PORTLAND, OREGON, APRIL 27 TO MAY 8.

IT WAS EVIDENT TO MY COLLEAGUES AND ME THAT LEGISLATION WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES FOR THE CORRECTION OF THIS ONE MORE ABUSE IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE CIA. WE WERE EXTREMELY GRATIFIED WHEN YOU TOOK SUCH VIGOROUS INITIATIVES IN INTRODUCING LEGISLATION. MANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN YOUR SUPPORT HAVE BEEN MADE BY CHURCH BODIES, BY MY IMMEDIATE COLLEAGUES, AND BY ME. WE HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA.

IT IS, THEN, WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT I WRITE TO YOU AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE UPI STORY OF JUNE 7, 1976, AND YOUR REMARKS AS PUBLISHED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MAY 25, 1976. THEY INDICATE THAT YOUR SATISFACTION WITH MR. GEORGE BUSH'S "NEW CIA REGULATION" IS SUCH THAT YOU "DO NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION ON (YOUR) BILL." IT IS MORE THAN DIFFICULT, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, FOR ME TO FOLLOW THE LOGIC FROM YOUR STRONG REPUDIATION OF THE CIA'S PRACTICE OF USING MISSIONARIES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL, TO YOUR EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. BUSH, TO YOUR WITHDRAWAL OF SPONSORSHIP FROM A VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL. THE UPI STORY SAYS THAT "IN RETURN" FOR CIA ACTIONS, YOU WILL NOT PROCEED WITH LEGISLATION. THAT PHRASE IS NOT YOURS, BUT IS THE

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EQUIVALENT OF YOUR BEING "VERY PLEASED".

SENATOR HATFIELD, I WOULD RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU EXAMINE AGAIN WHAT HAS COME FROM MR. BUSH AND THE CIA. IT IS THE OPINION OF MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES AND MY OPINION THAT IT OFFERS NO PROTECTION OR GUARANTEES AGAINST CONTINUED ABUSES BY THE CIA, ESPECIALLY IF NO REGULATORY LEGISLATION IS ENACTED. THE "NEW CIA REGULATION" MAY EVEN ALLOW THE AGENCY TO ACT WITH MORE IMPUNITY IF THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE.

PLEASE PERMIT ME TO POINT OUT TWO OR THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE STATEMENT THAT BEAR CLOSER EXAMINATION AND THAT SUGGEST THE UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE CIA "ACTION". FIRST OF ALL, IT IS A STATEMENT THAT "NO SECRET, PAID OR UNPAID CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP" WILL BE ESTABLISHED. THIS IS TIED TO A "SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERN" RELATED TO CHURCH-STATE RELATIONSHIPS. TO HANG THE QUESTION AROUND "CONTRACTUAL" RELATIONSHIPS IS TO MISS OR TO OBSCURE THE POINT. A CONTRACT OR NON-CONTRACT MAY BE A MATTER OF INTERPRETATION, ALL TOO SUBJECT TO THE EXPEDIENCE OF THE CASE IN POINT. THE ABUSE IS THAT THE CIA SHOULD USE MISSIONARIES OR OTHER RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL OF ANY COUNTRY, WITH OR WITHOUT PAY, OPENLY OR SECRETLY, CONTRACTUALLY OR "FREELY", IN ITS INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATIONS. YOU, SIR, HAVE FULLY SPELLED OUT ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THE REASONS WHY THAT IS AN ABUSE.

SECOND, THE STATEMENT THAT THE CIA "WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME INFORMATION VOLUNTEERED BY AMERICAN CLERGYMEN OR MISSIONARIES" MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. IT IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE AGENCY SEES SUCH PERSONNEL AS A RICH RESOURCE AND THAT THEIR USE IS NOT AN ABERRATION. NOR CAN WE BELIEVE THAT THE CIA WILL MAINTAIN A WAITING POSTURE, HOPING THAT SOME OF THE "WELCOME" INFORMERS WILL APPEAR.

THIRD, THIS FEAR IS REINFORCED WHEN WE READ THAT THE AGENCY MAY "INITIATE CONTACT SO AS TO AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY" IF A SENIOR AGENCY OFFICIAL CONSIDERS A CLERGYMAN OR MISSIONARY TO BE A PARTICULARLY RICH LOBE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE GREATER THE CONFIDENCE WHICH THE MISSIONARY MIGHT BETRAY, THE GREATER THE PROBABILITY THAT THE CIA WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO HELP IT OCCUR.

FINALLY, BECAUSE WE DO NOT DOUBT MR. BUSH'S INTELLIGENCE OR ASTUTENESS, WE SEE THE CYNICISM OF THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE REGULATION WHICH STIPULATES THAT "SUCH INITIATIVES SHALL NOT BE TAKEN ABROAD." I NEED NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE UNETHICAL NATURE OF AN ATTEMPT TO TIE MORALITY TO GEOGRAPHY. WHY SHOULD IT BE

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MORE ETHICAL OR CONSTITUTIONALLY LEGAL TO "PROSTITUTE THE CHURCH"  
(TO USE YOUR OWN PHRASE) WHILE STANDING ON ONE SOIL THAN WHILE  
STANDING ON ANOTHER?

I DO NOT MEAN TO TIRE YOU WITH THE LENGTH OF THIS LETTER.  
MY INTENT IS TO ASK THAT YOU RE-EXAMINE THE "NEW CIA REGULATION",  
BECAUSE I BELIEVE A CAREFUL STUDY WILL LEAD YOU ONCE MORE TO  
PRESS FOR THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION WHICH WILL HELP TO CONTROL  
A SERIOUS ABUSE IN CIA OPERATIONS.

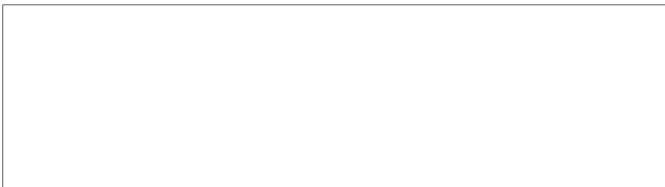
SINCERELY YOURS,



STAT-

LMM:yf

CC : PRESIDENT GERALD FORD  
MR. GEORGE BUSH  
SENATOR CLIFFORD CASE  
SENATOR HARRISON WILLIAMS



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